

OPINION 1666

Aphrodita imbricata Linnaeus, 1767 (currently *Harmothoe imbricata*)
and *Aphrodita minuta* Fabricius, 1780 (currently *Pholoe minuta*)
(Annelida, Polychaeta): specific names conserved

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary powers the following specific names are hereby suppressed:
 - (a) *lepidota* Pallas, 1766, as published in the binomen *Aphrodita lepidota*, for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
 - (b) *minuta* Pennant, 1777, as published in the binomen *Aphrodita minuta*, and all other uses of this name before the publication of *A. minuta* Fabricius, 1780, for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy.
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *imbricata* Linnaeus, 1767, as published in the binomen *Aphrodita imbricata*;
 - (b) *minuta* Fabricius, 1780, as published in the binomen *Aphrodita minuta*.
- (3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *lepidota* Pallas, 1766, as published in the binomen *Aphrodita lepidota* and as suppressed in (1)(a) above;
 - (b) *minuta* Pennant, 1777, as published in the binomen *Aphrodita minuta* and as suppressed in (1)(b) above.

History of Case 2452

An application for the conservation of the specific names of *Aphrodita imbricata* Linnaeus, 1767 and *A. minuta* Fabricius, 1780 was received from Dr Susan Chambers and Mr David Heppell (*National Museums of Scotland, Edinburgh, U.K.*) on 30 September 1983. The case was held pending proposed taxonomic revisions and was eventually published in BZN 46: 22–24 (March 1989). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

A comment from Dr Mary E. Petersen (*Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen, Denmark*), published in BZN 47: 207–209 (September 1990), supported the conservation of *Aphrodita minuta* Fabricius, 1780 by suppressing the earlier unused homonym *A. minuta* Pennant, 1777, but preferred the name *Aphrodita imbricata* Linnaeus, 1767 to be given precedence over *A. lepidota* Pallas, 1766, rather than the proposed suppression of the latter name. A reply by the authors of the application was published at the same time.

Dr Petersen considered that leaving the name *A. lepidota* available for possible future use would be advantageous since it was almost certain that revision of *A. imbricata* would result in that nominal species being split. While agreeing the latter point, Dr Chambers & Mr Heppell noted that, in the absence of type material, the name *lepidota* Pallas, 1766 could not be applied with confidence.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 1991 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 46: 23. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 1991 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 22: Bock, Cocks, Corliss, Hahn, Halvorsen, Heppell, Kabata, Kraus, Lehtinen, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Minelli (in part), Nielsen, Nye, Ride, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Trjapitzin, Uéno, Willink

Negative votes — 3: Bayer, Minelli (in part) and Thompson.

Dupuis and Holthuis abstained.

No vote was received from Cogger.

Minelli voted for the suppression of *Aphrodita minuta* Pennant, 1777 but not for the suppression of *A. lepidota* Pallas, 1766. Dupuis commented: 'Pending a better taxonomic knowledge of the genus I think it is premature to decide the case from a mere nomenclatural point of view'. Holthuis, Minelli, Ride and Thompson expressed support for the course suggested by Dr Petersen, namely that the name *imbricata* be given precedence over *lepidota*. The Executive Secretary consulted Dr Nielsen (University of Copenhagen) on this point; he replied (in agreement with Chambers & Heppell, BZN 47: 210) that Pallas's name could not be appropriately assigned to any particular taxon which might be differentiated from *imbricata*.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on an Official List and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

imbricata, *Aphrodita*, Linnaeus, 1767, *Systema Naturae*, Ed. 12, vol. 1(2), p. 1084.

lepidota, *Aphrodita*, Pallas, 1766, *Miscellanea Zoologica*, p. 94.

minuta, *Aphrodita*, O. Fabricius, 1780, *Fauna Groenlandica*, p. 314.

minuta, *Aphrodita*, Pennant, 1777, *British Zoology*, Ed. 4, vol. 4, p. 38 (quarto edition).